



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Meeting Summary January 15, 2009 2-4 p.m. Beacon Hill Library, Seattle

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:00 pm.

Roll Call

A quorum was declared.

Board Members Present: Doug Hoople (Chair), Bill Wood (Vice Chair), Francisco Ivarra, Kathy Lewis, Robert Stephens, Jr., Ron Forest, Oren Hadaller

Board Members Excused/Absent: Roger Welles, Gary Kingsbury, Stan Gunno,

County Staff Present: Marcy Kubbs, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Kelli Larsen, DCHS; Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Sadikifu Akina-James, DCHS; Joel Estey, King County Veterans' Program (KCVF)

Guests: Cynthia Lefever

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft November meeting summary was reviewed with no corrections identified.

ACTION: The November meeting summary was approved.

Report on #2.8 Procurement Plan

Marcy Kubbs provided the board with an update on the #2.8 Procurement Plan. The goal of this initiative is to support people in getting jobs and remaining stable in housing. Jackie MacLean provided an update to the board in January 2008, addressing the specific question about the \$700,000 held aside. King County was asked to participate in the Workforce Development Collaborative (also including Gates Foundation, Medina Foundation, Microsoft Foundation, Seattle Foundation, United Way, Community Colleges), which is pushing education as key to success in employment and housing.

Studies have shown that one year of education provides a huge step up for people. King County would like to put \$700,000 of levy funds aside for this Collaborative. Staff members had hoped for a decision in 2008, but this planning process has taken a little longer. King County staff members are currently working on the proposal and plan to meet with the boards in March 2009.

Committee Reports

Strategy #2: There is an upcoming committee meeting scheduled for February 22, 2009.

Strategy #5: Levy staff will schedule a meeting for February 2009 to discuss the process evaluation and the evaluation report focusing on veterans.

Communication: Stan Gunno suggested that the Speakers' Bureau should start ramping up activities in 2009.

Chair's Report

- Doug Hoople presented the Proclamation of King County Board and Commission Members' Day, which he received at the annual celebration hosted by King County Council in December.
- Doug Hoople presented in front of County Council on the Third Quarter Report for 2008 and reported that the presentation went well and there were not too many questions.

Criteria for Curriculum

Francisco Ivarra provided an update on the activity under #1.1 School Resources for Military Kids. The curriculum committee is responsible for developing a curriculum for use in the Seattle School District and others, which aims to assist the children of those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The group is working cooperatively with the school districts to help children and parents better understand the consequences of their military service. There are great ideas being exchanged within this committee and it is an exciting project.

Upcoming important dates include:

- January 16: Deadline for receiving public comment
- January 28: Deadline for summarizing and incorporating public comment

The committee plans to begin implementing the curriculum by fall 2009. The first target group for the curriculum includes the counselors, social workers, and prevention coordinators at schools. The committee will first distribute it to these stakeholders for input and ideas for improvement.

- Cynthia Lefever stated that it is important to prevent stigmatization of military kids in classrooms and schools. It is important for the entire school to be supportive of military kids.
- It will be important that school workers involved with this project be appropriately trained. The curriculum will have multiple layers to match up with the qualifications of the school staff that will be implementing the curriculum.

- Jon Hoskins provided the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs data on military kids in King County. There are approximately 1,000 kids of current military members and 1,000 kids of National Guard members and Reserves.

King County Staff Report

- Doug Hoople, Marcy Kubbs, and the board members thanked Kelli Larsen for her service to the board and the Veterans and Human Services Levy and presented a thank you gift and card.
- Board re-appointments are in process and staff members are working to complete these confirmations as soon as possible.
- The mobile medical service staff members have started exploring service areas in South King County, and have hosted four clinics serving about 25 people in Kent, Auburn, Federal Way, and Tukwila.
- The contract with the National Guard is nearly complete.
- There are now final drafts for the Request for Qualifications for Activity #1.3 Phone Resource and the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Activity #1.1 Underserved Populations. Those drafts are now being reviewed by the department director.
- Through the 2009 King County budget process, the only change to the Levy budget was the addition of Family Treatment Court funding of \$225,000 for 2009-2011. This funding will come from the Human Services Levy.

Old Business

- The Joint Strategy Two Committee will meet February 22, 2009 in order to:
 - Review the housing capital awards
 - Review all housing funds that have been distributed to date
- Board members requested that Attachment B (from quarterly reports) be updated, as well as the RFP matrix and Capital Projects report.

New Business

- Board elections will be postponed until the March 2009 VCLOB meeting.
 - Current officers will remain in their positions until the next election.
- Several board members attended a presentation at Buckley Armory about a program called “Vets meet Vets”, which seeks to connect veterans with other veterans so they can share issues and learn from each other. This group wants to support Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families, and people at the presentation shared thoughts about needs in the community.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

Cynthia Lefever, mother of Rory Lefever, a disabled veteran from Iraq, shared her son's amazing story with the board (Read more about his story in *The Seattle Times*, November 9, 2008). Rory is an example of what every veteran is entitled to receive for their service. Cynthia is now working to educate families and communities about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and the services available to them. She is also dedicated to preventing stigma and seeing that veterans are

helped. She is now working on getting medical bracelets for veterans living with PTSD and TBI and helping the First Responder systems to be more aware of these issues.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.